HOTEL NEAR EVENT LOCATION
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE ACTING SO SOFT!
WHAT, DID YOU LOSE YOUR DRIVE TO BE A PRODUCER OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S JUST HOW IORI TRIES TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE.
AND I KNOW THAT'S JUST HOW SHE TALKS, AS WELL.
BUT, WHY AM I FEELING SO PUT DOWN BY ALL THIS?
"AND SO WHAT?"
"THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE *HER* JOB, ISN'T IT?"
……

第19話「プロデューサーの素質」

CHAPTER 19 WHAT MAKES A PRODUCER

祐佑
YUU YUU

原作／バンダイナムコゲームス
ORIGINAL WORK BY BANDAI NAMCO GAMES

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AFTER RE-HEARSAL
TOMORROW'S GONNA BE THE FOURTH SHOW OF OUR LIVE TOUR.
I KNOW EVERYONE'S TIRED, BUT THE SHOW'S GOT TO GO ON.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T OVERWORK YOURSELF, OKAY?
PRODUCER,
SO, THE REASON WHY RITSUKO LEFT WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS...
WELL,
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SHE'S DOING OTHER THINGS BEHIND-THE-SCENES,
SO SHE'S HANDED OVER THE LESSONS TO ME BECAUSE SHE'S EXHAUSTED.
カカカ
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ

AH, WELL,
SHE SHOULD BE FINE, I THINK.
OH, OKAY. IS RICCHAN GONNA BE ALRIGHT?
I'M WORRIED AS WELL...
MHM.
HEY.
THE LEAST YOU ALL CAN DO,
IS TO REST WELL AND FOCUS ON TOMORROW'S LIVE.
I KNOW, BECAUSE I'VE FACED THAT SITUATION BEFORE.
SHE'LL BE FINE AFTER SHE GETS SOME REST.
OKAY?
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR TOMORROW, EVERYONE!
DIS-MISSED!

RITSUKO DIDN'T REALLY SEEM TIRED WHEN WE SAW HER LEAVE EARLIER.
AMI'S GOTTA AGREE.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME RICCHAN'S ACTED LIKE THAT...
チラ...
WHA, WHAT NOW?
ARE YOU SAYING IT'S MY FAULT!?
I WAS JUST ACTING LIKE I ALWAYS DO!
IT'S JUST THAT RITSUKO SUDDEN-LY-
SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS GONNA CRY.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE?
WELL...
HEY, IORIN.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN RICCHAN STARTED ACTING STRANGE?
NOT AT ALL.
IT WAS JUST AFTER OUR FIRST SHOW, WASN'T IT?
AZUSA-ONEE-CHAN'S GOT IT RIGHT!
.....

"AND SO WHAT?"
"THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HER JOB, ISN'T IT?"
!
I REMEMBER NOW, AMI!
THE REASON WHY RITSUKO SEEMED DOWN THAT TIME WAS BECAUSE-
AH...
UFUFU-
A, ARA ARA...
.....
SO, YOU KNO-
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW A THING!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE RITSUKO WAS ACTING SO WEAK!
WAIT, IORIN!
HEY, IORIN.
IT'S DEFINITELY BECAUSE OF THAT. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN THINK OF.
YOU CAN'T BLAME RICCHAN JUST BECAUSE SHE WAS UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO FORGET HER NOTEBOOK,

SEEMS LIKE RYUUGUU KOMACHI'S WORRIED, TOO.
MHM...
SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
C'MON! ADMIT IT ALREADY-
IF THEY'RE THAT WORRIED,
IT'D BE GOOD IF THEY COULD FIND RITSUKO AND PATCH THINGS UP WITH HER.
THINGS CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS MUCH LONGER.
PRODUCER'S DEFINITELY HIDING SOMETHING FROM US AGAIN.
WELL, WE DID TRY TO EAVESDROP JUST A LITTLE...
BUT WE ENDED UP OVERHEARING RYUUGUU KOMACHI..

HIBIKI, YUKIHO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
"WHAT SHOULD WE DO"?
THAT'S A PROBLEM WITHIN THEIR UNIT, YOU KNOW?
YEAH. WE SHOULDN'T INTERFERE.
IT DOES SEEM PRETTY NOSY,
BUT AFTER HEARING AND TALKING ABOUT IT,
うーん
IT'S A BIT HARD TO IGNORE...
PRODUCER KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON, DOESN'T HE?
OF COURSE. THAT'S WHY HE'S COVERING FOR THEM.
EVEN IF WE KNEW ANYTHING, WE CAN'T DO MUCH TO HELP.
I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD FIND OUT, EITHER.
WE GOTTA WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, HUH.
.....
WHY IS HE HIDING IT FROM US, ANYWAY...

AAH!
I CAN'T STAND THIS.
LYING TO COVER UP FOR SOMEONE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT
AND DOING THINGS TOO MUCH FOR ONE PERSON TO HANDLE.
PEOPLE WILL SUSPECT SOMETHING BECAUSE THEY'RE CONCERNED!
THIS ODD FEELING OF DISTANCE
WHEN YOU HAVE TO TRUST SOMEONE FEELS REALLY STRANGE.
I KNOW...
IT SURE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE HOW IT USUALLY DOES.
YEAH...
THAT'S WHY,
EVEN IF WE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS BEHIND IT ALL,
WE'RE ALWAYS GOING TO COME UP A LITTLE SHORT...

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO RUSH INTO IT.
TAKING THINGS SLOWLY IS FINE AS WELL.
AIN'T IT.
YEAH.
WE'RE JUST WASTING OUR TIME, AREN'T WE.
GUESS WE STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE PRODUCER'S GONNA DO
BACK TO WHAT I WAS SAYING,
WELL,
THAT SEEMS FINE TO ME AS WELL.
UM.
WHICH FLOOR IS RITSUKO'S ROOM ON, AGAIN?
IF I LEND A EAR TO HER WORRIES,
SHE SHOULD FEEL A BIT BETTER...
ABOUT RYUUGUU KOMACHI'S PROBLEM?

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I'M DOING THIS BE-CAUSE I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, OKAY!?
IF SHE KEEPS THIS UP, IT'S GOING TO TROUBLE EVERYONE, THAT'S WH-
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE SAID THAT ALREADY.
HURRY UP AND KNOCK ON THE DOOR.
コン コン
ポーン
ピクッ
!?
ガー
ピー
!!
AH, IT'S NII-CHAN.
HOLD ON, IORIN!?
ガッ

?
THIS SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING A LOT LATELY.
OR AM I JUST SEEING THINGS?
WAS SOMEONE THERE?
HM?
GUESS I'M GUILTY OF NOT TAKING MY OWN ADVICE, HUH.
THIS IS RITSUKO-SAN'S ROOM, ISN'T IT?
OH DEAR... THAT LOOKED LIKE IT HURT...
ALRIGHT!? IF ANYONE ELSE KNOWS ABOUT THIS-
I DON'T WANT ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU TWO SEEING ME APOLOGIZE TO RITSUKO!
AMI'S JUST REALIZED, BUT... WHY ARE WE HIDING?

OH DEAR, WHAT JUST-! PRODUCER!?
SORRY! DID THE DOOR HIT YOU?
I... I'M ALRIGHT!
I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT THE DOOR TO OPEN BEFORE I KNOCKED...
?
DIDN'T YOU KNOCK A MOMENT AGO?

AH, NO.
I'M OKAY, REALLY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, RITSUKO,

SERIOUSLY, YOU DON'T SOUND ALRIGHT AT ALL!
DID YOU GET HIT SO HARD THAT YOU FORGOT?

SIGH
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
THIS IS A LITTLE-
ARGH, I GET IT ALREADY.
IN ANY CASE, CALM DOWN AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT THINGS SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU'RE HURTING MORE THAN I AM, YOU KNOW?
BLOOD'S STREAMING OUT OF YOUR NOSE!

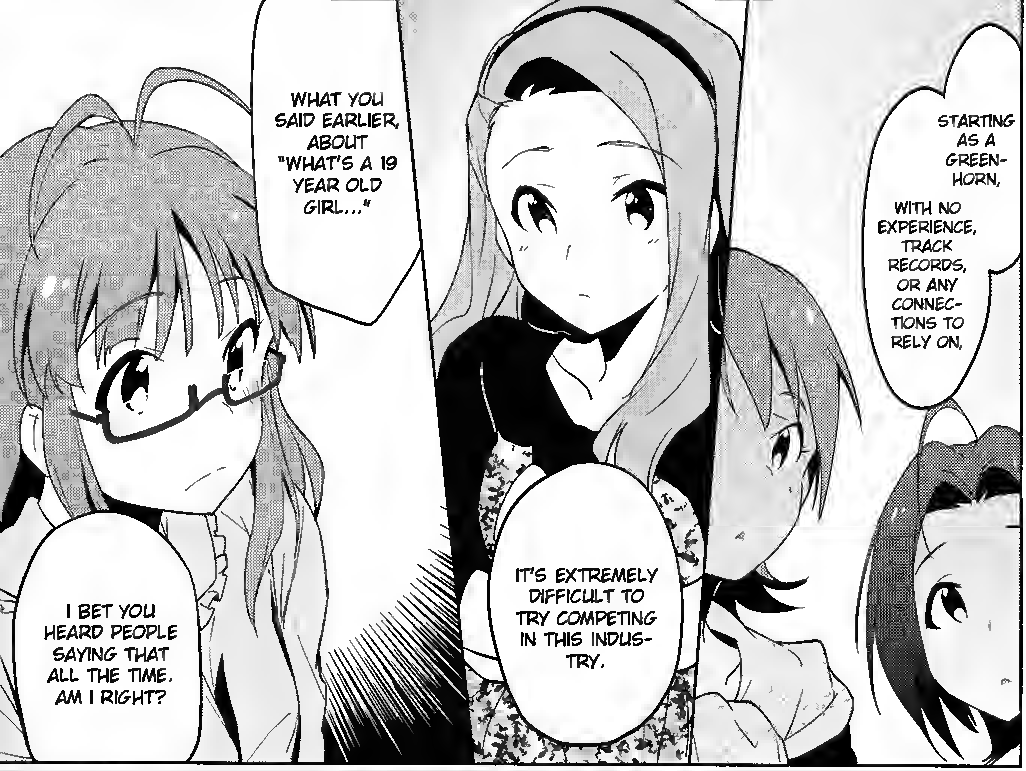
スタスタ
YEAH.
YOU CAME OVER TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING?
ガコン
SO,
YOU SEEMED TO HAVE HAD A HARD TIME LATELY.
ガコンッ
I CAN ALWAYS LEND AN EAR IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
カキ
WITH THAT SAID,
よいっしょ、
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
RIGHT NOW, THERE'S NO POINT FOR ME TO TRY TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES, OR KEEP MY PROBLEMS TO MYSELF.
I'M NOT REALLY SURE, MYSELF, ABOUT WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING SO DOWN.

I'M NOT REALLY LOOKING FOR SYMPATHY HERE.
I'M JUST NOT VERY SURE HOW THINGS ENDED UP LIKE THIS.
YOU COULD TALK ABOUT WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, AT LEAST.
HOW DO THINGS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
OKAY, LET'S SEE...
IT MIGHT BE THAT YOU'RE BEING EVEN STRICTER WITH YOURSELF.
RITSUKO-SAN,
YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO'S VERY STRICT, NO MATTER WHO YOU DEAL WITH.
DON'T HOLD BACK, OKAY?
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SEEM TO OVERLOOK EVEN THE SMALLEST MISTAKES YOU MIGHT MAKE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU SOMETIMES LOSE FOCUS,
AND YOU END UP MAKING EVEN MORE MISTAKES,
TURNING IT INTO A VICIOUS CYCLE.
THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS LIKE TO ME.

A COMPLAINT?
WHENEVER I'M DOING MY JOB, SOMETIMES, IT FEELS LIKE-
YEP.
IF I COULD SAY SOMETHING...
WELL, IT'S MORE OF A COMPLAINT THAN ANYTHING, BUT...
CAN'T OVERLOOK MY OWN MISTAKES...
WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I'M SCARED, AND JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY.
EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO KEEP ON DOING IT,
I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF THIS-
WAIT, I SHOULD BE THE ONE CALMING DOWN.
I UNDERSTAND NOW! CALM DOWN!
SORRY, RITSUKO-SAN!
BECAUSE OF THAT, AND MY STRICT ATTITUDE,
IT'S STARTING TO WEAR DOWN ON MY COMPOSURE-

AND, ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU ENDED UP BECOMING A PRODUCER.
WELL, YEAH.
.....
RITSUKO-SAN, YOU USED TO BE AN IDOL, RIGHT?
...? YEAH, EVEN THOUGH I WAS ACTUALLY AN INTERN.
AGAIN, WHAT'S WITH THAT ODD GESTURE?
SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
SCARED, HUH.
THINKING ABOUT IT, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S NOT IT.
I WAS JUST REALLY SURPRISED.
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT POINT.
AND WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO IMPLY!?
HOW RUDE!
RITSUKO-SAN,
YOU'RE A 19 YEAR OLD GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
"WHAT'S A 19 YEAR OLD GIRL EVEN DOING AS A PRODUCER?"
DON'T TELL ME IT'S SOMETHING LIKE,
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY EARLIER?

EH!? WHAT DID NII-CHAN JUST SAY!?
HE'S A SPY!?
RITSUKO'S GOT SOME EXPLAIN-ING TO DO!
UM, I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
NAH, NO WAY.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE A 961 PRODUCTIONS SPY LIKE ME?
WELL, FORMER SPY
765 プロ
IF RYUUGUU KOMACHI DIDN'T MANAGE TO GET OFF THE GROUND,
765 PRODUCTIONS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE COLLAPSED ALONG WITH IT.
BACK THEN, WHEN YOU BECAME A PRODUCER,
P
HUH!?
WHAT I'M SAYING, IS THAT YOU'RE A PRETTY AMAZING PERSON, RITSUKO-SAN.
I BELIEVE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LET ANY OF US WORRY ABOUT IT...
AND WE DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT.
SO RICCHAN'S BEEN DEALING WITH THAT SORT OF PRESSURE...
AH...
SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY IT BEING SCARY...
THAT'S A PRETTY SCARY THOUGHT.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU'D END UP BEING THAT HARD ON EVERYONE.


WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER, ABOUT "WHAT'S A 19 YEAR OLD GIRL..."
I BET YOU HEARD PEOPLE SAYING THAT ALL THE TIME. AM I RIGHT?
STARTING AS A GREEN-HORN,
WITH NO EXPERIENCE, TRACK RECORDS, OR ANY CONNEC-TIONS TO RELY ON,
IT'S EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO TRY COMPETING IN THIS INDUS-TRY.

HAHA, THAT DEPENDS ON HOW WELL YOU DO FOR THIS ONE!
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO PLEASED?
MAKE SURE YOU GET A BIGGER JOB NEXT TIME!
ALRIGHT! IT'S NOT VERY BIG, BUT WE'VE GOT A JOB! LET'S DO OUR BEST FOR OUR LESSONS!

BUT YOU'RE PARTLY TO BLAME AS WELL, YOU KNOW?
HEHE. THIS MAY SOUND A LITTLE ODD TO YOU,
EH?
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE CARE ABOUT THOSE.
IN FACT, YOU SHOULD BE PRETTY PROUD OF THAT!
I... SEEM TO HAVE A BIT OF A COMPLEX ABOUT MY AGE AND EXPERIENCE, DON'T I.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES,
WITH SPROUT AND THE OTHER IDOLS.
AH. YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
WAIT, ME TOO!?
I'M REALLY SORRY IF I ENDED UP DOING ANYTHING THAT YOU-
WHEN YOU ACHIEVED SOMETHING I COULDN'T IN SUCH A SHORT TIME,
I ENDED UP DOUBTING MYSELF.
YOU SEE,
YOUR UNIT MANAGED TO CATCH UP TO US SO QUICKLY, EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T SO EASY FOR US TO GET THERE.
I WAS GRATE-FUL,
BUT I WAS ALSO PRETTY JEALOUS AS THE SAME TIME.
WHEN YOU CAME UP WITH THE PLAN FOR THIS LIVE TOUR,
AND MANAGED TO GET EVERY ONE OF THEM INVOLVED AS WELL,
BESIDES THAT, I WAS ALSO PRETTY CONCERNED ABOUT THE OTHER IDOLS.
HOWEVER, I ALREADY HAD MY HANDS FULL WITH RYUUGUU KOMACHI.

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT ALL THOSE BIG JOBS I TOOK WEREN'T EXACTLY ALL MY DOING...
BUT, SEE, WHEN I GOT HERE, THE AGENCY'S SITUATION WAS NO LONGER THAT DESPERATE.
AND THAT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
THAT'S WHY, AT THAT TIME,
IORI'S WORDS REALLY HURT A LOT.
EVEN SO,
THAT'S HOW THINGS ENDED UP LOOKING TO ME.
THE RESULTS ALONE MADE ME REALLY ENVIOUS.
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ACTING SO WEAK,
I SUPPOSE THE THREE GIRLS IN MY UNIT ARE PRETTY DISAPPOINTED RIGHT NOW...

YOU'RE NOT BEING WEAK OR ANYTHING!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU THREE...
HOW LONG WERE YOU-
RITSU-KO,
I'M SORRY NONE OF US REALIZED...
AZUSA...
YOU KNOW WE'D NEVER BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, RICCHAN.
AMI...

IORI...
LISTEN CLOSELY TO WHAT I SAY, ALRIGHT?
WE'RE ONLY RYUUGUU KOMACHI WHEN YOU'RE WITH US, RITSUKO!
WE CAN'T GO ON IF YOU'RE NOT AROUND!
YOU GOT THAT? STOP FEELING SO DOWN ALREADY...
HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO NORMAL, OKAY?
YEAH,
I GET IT.
AND, ALSO...
I SAID TOO MUCH EARLI-ER...
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T HEAR THAT CLEARLY, IORI.
MIND SAYING IT AGAIN?
!!
Y, YOU!

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SETTLED NICELY.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, EVERYONE.
I GUESS IT'S BEST FOR THEM TO SAY IT.
NFUFU-! PREPARE YOURSELF, NII-CHAN!
UFUFUFU!
YOU HEAR ME?
WE WON'T LOSE TO SPROUT ON-STAGE!
THAT SMUG SMILE'S REALLY GETTING TO ME!
PLEASED TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.
WE'RE STILL FRIENDS,
AND RIVALS, AREN'T WE?
PRO-DUCER,
I'LL BE SURE TO PUT MY ALL INTO IT FROM NOW ON.
SAME HERE.